(b) whether Government in the prevailing economic conditions propose to accept the said recommendations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

**Additional dearness allowance/relief due to Central Government employees/pensioners**

1944. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what percentage of additional dearness allowance/relief has become due to the Central Government employees/pensioners with effect from 1 January, 2008, in terms of the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission;

(b) whether there is any proposal under consideration to grant interim relief to the employees and pensioners in view of their long standing demand; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, indicating the date from which the same would be paid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) 6% additional dearness allowance/relief has become due to the Central Government employees/pensioners with effect from 1 January, 2008 in terms of the recommendation of the Fifth Pay Commission.

(b) and (c) No proposal is under consideration for grant of interim relief to Central Government employees and pensioners.

**Delay in disposal of seized/confiscated goods**

1945. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are instances of abnormal delay in the disposal of seized/confiscated goods by the Customs Department leading to spoiling or deteriorating of the quality of such goods and in tern resulting loss of revenue to Government;

(b) whether such cases have pointed out by Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) during their audit;

(c) what is the work of internal department in avoiding irregularities committed by Income Tax and Customs departments; and

(d) whether it is a fact that many of audit paragraphs could be avoided provided the internal audit did its job rightly and effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.